Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please **amend** claims 1, 15-18, and 24 as shown in the Status of the Claims section, *infra.* Additions are underlined and deletions are struck through.

Claims 15-17 have been amended to present the method claim recitations in process step form. Such amendments are not claim narrowing as that term is understood. Moreover, such amendments are made without the intention of surrendering the availability of equivalents to the subject matter of the previously presented claims.

Claims 1, 18, and 24 have been amended to more distinctly claim the previously recited "function", which corresponds to a queue management unit. Such amendments are not claim narrowing as that term is understood. Moreover, such amendments are made without the intention of surrendering the availability of equivalents to the subject matter of the previously presented claims.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended). A printing apparatus for carrying out the printing of print jobs transmitted from a host device in order of receipt, said apparatus comprising:

a queue management unit~~function~~ that holds ~~by which~~ a print job to which a password is attached and which is transmitted from said host device ~~is held,~~ together with normal print jobs for which no password entry is required, in a queue and that ~~which~~ manages the order of all print jobs, until said password is entered; and

a control unit for sequentially carrying out, upon entry of the password for the password-attached print job that is being held, the printing of the password-attached print jobs in order of entry of the password in preference over the normal print jobs, which require no password entry, that are waiting for print.

Claim 2 (previously presented). The printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control unit stores the password-attached print jobs in said queue in a print hold status, moves a password-attached print job for which the password has been entered to the end of print jobs stored in said queue while releasing the print hold status, and carries out the printing of the password-attached print jobs for which the passwords have been entered in order of release of said print hold status.

Claim 3 (previously presented). The printing apparatus according to claim 1, comprising:

clock means for clocking a predetermined time from the performance of the printing of said password-attached print job to the performance of the printing of the next password-attached print job, wherein

said control unit, having completed one password-attached print job, carries out the printing of the next password-attached print job at least after said predetermined time has been clocked by said clock means.

Claim 4 (previously presented). The printing apparatus according to claim 2, comprising:

clock means for clocking a predetermined time from the performance of the printing of said password-attached print job to the performance of the printing of the next password-attached print job, wherein

said control unit, having completed one password-attached print job, carries out the printing of the next password-attached print job at least after said predetermined time has been clocked by said clock means.

Claim 5 (previously presented). The printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control unit comprises a pointer for indicating the end of the password-attached print jobs stored in said queue.

Claim 6 (previously presented). The printing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control unit comprises a pointer for indicating the end of said normal print jobs stored in said queue.

Claim 7 (previously presented). The printing apparatus according to claims 1, wherein said control unit stores the password-attached print jobs towards the head of a single queue, and stores said normal print jobs following said password-attached print jobs, said control unit comprising pointers at the end of said password-attached print jobs and at the end of said normal print jobs.

Claim 8 (previously presented). The printing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a display unit for displaying a list of the password-attached print jobs that are stored in said queue in print hold status.

Claim 9 (previously presented). The printing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said control unit comprises a pointer for indicating the end of the password-attached print jobs stored in said queue.

Claim 10 (previously presented). The printing apparatus according to claims 3, wherein said control unit comprises a pointer for indicating the end of said normal print jobs stored in said queue.

Claim 11 (previously presented). The printing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said control unit stores the password-attached print jobs towards the head of a single queue, and stores said normal print jobs following said password-attached print jobs, said control unit comprising pointers at the end of said password-attached print jobs and at the end of said normal print jobs.

Claim 12 (previously presented). The printing apparatus according to claims 4, wherein said control unit comprises a pointer for indicating the end of the password-attached print jobs stored in said queue.

Claim 13 (previously presented). The printing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said control unit comprises a pointer for indicating the end of said normal print jobs stored in said queue.

Claim 14 (previously presented). The printing apparatus according to claims 2, wherein said control unit stores the password-attached print jobs towards the head of a single queue, and stores said normal print jobs following said password-attached print jobs, said control unit comprising pointers at the end of said password-attached print jobs and at the end of said normal print jobs.

Claim 15 (currently amended). A printing method whereby, that, during the printing of normal print jobs for which no password entry is required in order of reception, upon entry of one or more a passwords for that each correspond to a password-attached print job, which has been stored in print hold status and for which password entry is required, the method comprising the steps of:

verifying that each of the entered passwords is a valid password for a corresponding password-attached print job; and

~~the~~ printing <u>each</u> ~~of the~~ password-attached print jobs ~~is carried out~~ in order of password entry after <u>completion of</u> the printing of the normal print jobs, for which no password entry is required, ~~that is being carried out is over~~,

<u>wherein printing of each password-attached print job is carried out</u> in preference over the other normal print jobs, for which no password entry is required, that are waiting for print.

Claim 16 (currently amended). A printing method <u>for printing a plurality of password-attached print jobs, the method comprising the steps of:</u>~~whereby~~

<u>verifying</u>, during ~~the~~ printing of a <u>first</u> password-attached print job for which password entry is required, upon entry of a password for a<u> second or subsequent</u>~~nother~~ password-attached print job that has been stored in print hold status,<u> that the entered password is a valid password for the second or subsequent password-attached print job; and</u>

~~the~~ printing ~~of~~ the <u>second or subsequent</u>~~latter~~ password-attached print job ~~is carried out~~ after the printing of the <u>first</u> password-attached print job <u>is completed,</u> ~~that is currently being carried out is over~~ <u>wherein the second or subsequent password-attached print job is carried out after a predetermined amount of time</u>.

Claim 17 (currently amended). A printing method<u> for printing one or more password-attached print jobs for which password entry is required</u> ~~whereby,~~ during ~~the~~ printing of normal print jobs for which no password entry is required ~~in order of reception~~, <u>the method comprising the steps of:</u>

<u>displaying</u> a list of password-attached print job<u>s,</u> which are stored in print hold status<u>;</u> ~~and for which password entry is required is displayed, and~~

<u>verifying</u>, upon entry of a password for any of the password-attached print jobs stored in print hold status, <u>that the password is a valid password for one of the password-attached print jobs; and</u>

~~the~~ printing <u>each</u> of the password-attached print job<u>s</u>~~is carried out~~ in order of password entry<u>,</u>

<u>wherein printing of each of the password-attached print jobs is carried out</u> in preference over the normal print jobs that are waiting for print.

Claim 18 (currently amended). A printing apparatus for printing print data transmitted from a host device in order of reception, said apparatus comprising:

a queue management unit~~function~~ for holding password-attached print data transmitted from said host device until said password is entered; and

a control unit for, upon entry of a password for password-attached print data that is being held, sequentially printing the password-attached print data in order of password entry, in preference over normal print data, for which no password entry is required, that is waiting for print.

Claim 19 (previously presented). A printing apparatus for carrying out the printing of normal print jobs, for which no password entry is required, in order of reception while putting password-attached print jobs, for which password entry is required, in print hold status, said apparatus comprising:

an input unit via which a password for a password-attached print job is entered; and

a control unit whereby the print hold status of said password-attached print job whose password agrees with the password entered via said input unit is released, and the printing of said password-attached print jobs is carried out in order of password entry, in preference over the normal print jobs that are waiting for print.

Claim 20 (previously presented). The printing apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising:

a display unit for displaying the password-attached print jobs that are in print hold status when password entry is received via said input unit, wherein

said control unit receives a designation of a single password-attached print from among the jobs displayed on said display unit, compares the password of the designated password-attached print job with the password that has been entered via said input unit, and releases the print hold status of said password-attached print job when the passwords agree with each other, thereby rendering the printing of said password-attached print job possible.

Claim 21 (previously presented). The printing apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said display unit displays a plurality of password-attached print jobs that are in print hold status in such a manner that one of the password-attached print jobs can be designated as the object of entry of the password via said input unit.

Claim 22 (previously presented). A printing apparatus for carrying out the printing of normal print jobs, for which no password entry is required, in order of reception while putting password-attached print jobs, for which password entry is required, in print hold status, said apparatus comprising:

an input unit via which a password for a password-attached print job is entered;

a display unit for displaying a plurality of password-attached print jobs that are in print hold status in such a manner that one of the password-attached print jobs can be designated as the object of the entry of the password in said input unit; and

a control unit by which, upon entry, via said input unit, of the password for a password-attached print job that has been designated from among the password-attached print jobs displayed on said display unit, the print hold status of the password-attached print job for which the password has been entered is released and the printing thereof is carried out in preference over the normal print jobs, for which no password entry is required, that are waiting for print and.

Claim 23 (previously presented). The printing apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said control unit is adapted to give notice in the event that the password for the password-attached print job designated from among the password-attached print jobs displayed on said display unit does not agree with the password entered via said input unit.

Claim 24 (currently amended). A printing system in which print data transmitted, via a server, from a host device is printed by a printer in order of reception, said system comprising:

a queue management unit~~function for holding~~ that holds the password-attached print data to which a plurality of passwords are attached and which are transmitted from said host device, until said passwords are entered; and

a control unit by which, upon entry of the password for the password-attached print data that is being held, the password-attached print data is sequentially printed in order of entry of the passwords, in preference over normal print data that are waiting for print and for which no password entry is required.